

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 27712 071011Z

ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 /055 W

-----111681 071233Z /12

R 070920Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 662

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM PINT TH

SUBJECT: RTG ANNOUNCES EXECUTION OF RAPIST-MURDERER AND RELEASE
OF DETAINEES

REF: A) BANGKOK 27064 B) BANGKOK 25437

1. EXERCISING ITS EXECUTIVE AUTHORITY, THE REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY (RP) ORDERED THE SUMMARY EXECUTION NOV 3, OF
WICHIE CHUTONG FOR THE MURDER OF A VILLAGE HEADMAN AND
HIS FAMILY AND THE RAPE OF HIS WIFE. WICHIE'S DEATH
FOLLOWS THE EXECUTION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS LAO FAN
AND CHARN SRIPBADUANGKUL ALSO ON NOV 3 (REF A).

2. IN A SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, THE RTG CORRECTIONS DEPT
ANNOUNCED PLANS TO RELEASE SHORTLY, ABOUT HALF OF THE
APPROX 2,000 DETAINEES CURRENTLY HELD UNDER THE
PROVISIONS OF NARC ORDER 22 ON CHARGES OF ENDANGERING
SOCIETY.

3. COMMENT: THE SUMMARY EXECUTIONS OF DRUG DEALERS
LAO FAN AND CHARN APPEAR TO BE AIMED AT BOLSTERING THE
CREDIBILITY OF THE RP'S COMMITMENT TO COMBAT ILLICIT
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NARCOTICS TRADE IN THE WAKE OF DRUG KINGPIN LAO SU'S
ESCAPE OCT 25 (REF B). THE EXECUTION OF WICHIE
FOR RAPE AND MURDER FOLLOWS A PATTERN SET BY THE THANIN
GOVT WHICH SOUGHT TO ENFORCE PUBLIC ORDER BY
SUMMARILY PUNISHING CRIMINALS INVOLVED IN THE MOST
SERIOUS CRIMES. SIX OF THE TEN ART 21 DEATH PENALTIES
DECREED BY PRMIN THANIN WERE METED OUT TO THOSE INVOLVED

IN RAPE-MURDERS. SIMILARLY, THE PENDING RELEASE OF DETAINEES
HELD UNDER NARC ORDER 22 IS A CONTINUATION OF THE PREVIOUS
GOVERNMENT'S POLICY PERIODICALLY (USUALLY EVERY 60 DAYS) TO
RELEASE PERSONS CONSIDERED NO LONGER A DANGER TO SOCEITY.
THE DECISION TO RELEASE THE DETAINEES WAS SCHEDULED
BEFORE THE COUP AND SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS AN
INDICATION THAT THE NEW RTG NECESSARILY INTENDS TO
PURSUE A MORE LENIENT COURSE.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 07-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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